

REMARKS

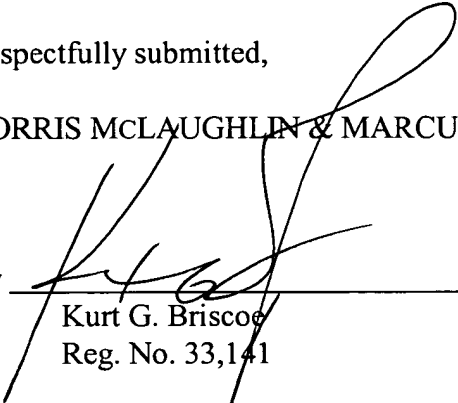
The amendments above eliminate multiple dependencies, and place the claims in better form for U.S. examination.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By

  
Kurt G. Briscoe  
Reg. No. 33,141

KGB:ja  
220 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10017  
(212) 808-0700

8. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 - 7] claim 1, wherein prior to the dewatering natural rubber latices or synthetic rubber latices in amounts of up to 70% by weight based on acrylic polymer are mixed as elastic fillers into the hot-melt pressure-sensitive adhesive dispersion, and/or before or after the dewatering up to 40% by weight of inorganic fillers and/or up to 30% by weight of polyacrylate-compatible plasticizers are admixed.
9. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 - 8] claim 1, wherein, after the dewatering, up to 50% by weight, based on overall polymer, or 35% by weight, based on acrylic polymer, of tackifier resins, preferably based on hydrocarbons with aromatic fractions, are mixed in.
10. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 - 10] claim 1, wherein, after the dewatering, up to 2% by weight of UV photoinitiators are admixed to the melt and/or incorporated into the acrylic polymer by copolymerization and/or up to 5% by weight of polyunsaturated (meth)acrylic monomers are incorporated into the melt and the film formed from the melt is crosslinked by means of  $2 \text{ J/cm}^2$  -  $10 \text{ J/cm}^2$  UV radiation and/or 10 kGy - 100 kGy electron beams, so as to give an insoluble fraction of up to 95% by weight acrylic polymer.
11. [The use of] Method of using the hot-melt pressure sensitive adhesives as set forth in [one of claims 1 - 10] claim 1 for the solvent-free preparation of punched elements or tapes which are pressure-sensitively adhesive on one or both sides.

**MARK-UP SHOWING THE CHANGES MADE IN THE PREVIOUS CLAIM TO YIELD  
THE CLAIM AS AMENDED ABOVE**

3. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 - 2] claim 1, wherein water-soluble substances which are stable at the melting temperature, preferably short-chain polymers which carry amide groups, and nonionic and also anionic low-foam emulsifiers, in an overall concentration of up to 4% by weight, are used as stabilizers for preparing the dispersion.
4. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 - 3] claim 1, wherein the chain lengths of the polymer are restricted by the presence of chain-length-regulating substances during the polymerization, preferably by comonomers from the group of the vinyl ethers, preferably cyclohexenyl ethers, fumaric esters or maleic esters, and also by styrene or by hydrophilic rosins in amounts of up to 10% by weight based on polymer.
5. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 - 4] claim 1, wherein the polymerization is conducted with linearly polymerizing, water-insoluble initiators which are soluble in the monomer mixture, preferably azo initiators, in amounts of up to 1% by weight based on the overall monomer mixture.
6. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 - 5] claim 1, wherein meltable polymers which are soluble without gel in organic solvents are formed which have a relative viscosity at 25°C in toluene of 1680 - 5000 and a melting range between 80°C and 170°C.
7. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 - 6] claim 1, wherein the polymer dispersion is dewatered under subatmospheric pressure in kneading devices or extruders having devolatilizing means in temperature ranges between 90°C and 160°C and, by way of the conveying pressure of toothed wheel pumps and/or extruder screws, are filmed, in the form of a homogeneous, molecularly disperse melt, via a slot die.

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## APPENDIX

**TITLE:** PREPARATION OF ACRYLIC HOT-MELT PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVES FROM AQUEOUS DISPERSE SYSTEMS

**LIST OF INVENTORS:**

1. Dr. Peter Gleichenhagen
2. Annemarie Müller

**CLAIM TO PRIORITY:**

Priority is hereby claimed under 35 USC 119 on the basis of German Application Serial No. 100 15 981.8, filed on March 3, 2000.

I hereby certify that the items listed on the attached Utility Patent Application Transmittal are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Hon. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, Box Patent Application.

NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN &amp; MARCUS

By:

Jennifer Aiche